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CITY PAGES

— THE —
OUTDOORS
I S S U E

Restaurants, bars, and movie theaters
are closed. Crowds are out.
Time to get into nature.



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UNRESTRICT
MINNESOTA



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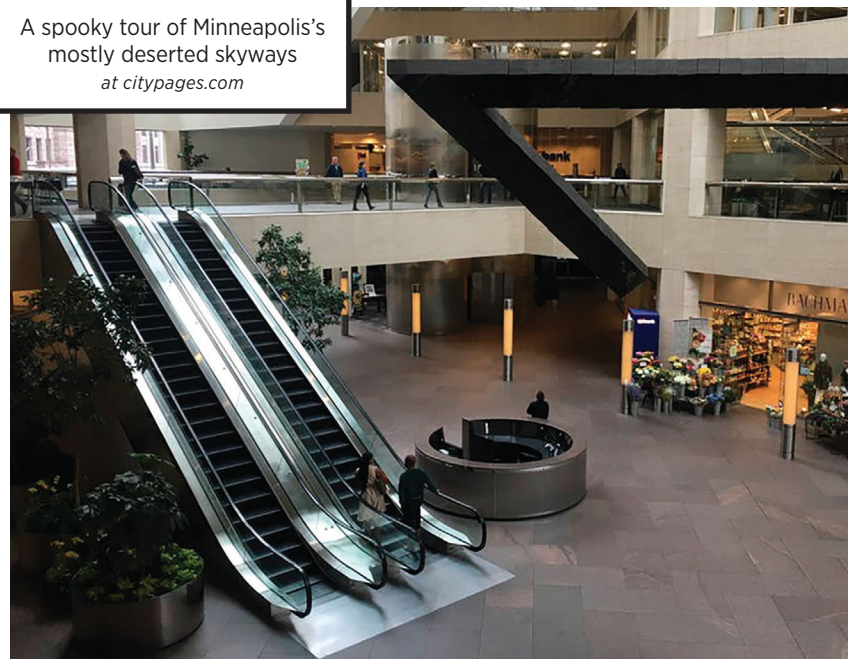
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THE SHORTLIST

A spooky tour of Minneapolis's
mostly deserted skyways
at citypages.com



HANNAH JONES

THE STAT SHEET

12%

Plummet in stocks Monday,
the worst since '87

42

Age at which quarterback Tom Brady—
six-time Super Bowl winner—is leaving
the New England Patriots

March 31

Earliest proposed reopening date for the
Mall of America, which closed Tuesday

\$200 Million

Emergency coronavirus funding
approved by the MN legislature
early Tuesday morning

**“So the Minneapolis skyway now
looks exactly like St. Paul’s.”**

Reader Luke Williams responds to the
deserted skyway photos at citypages.com

“AN UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE”

ON MONDAY EVENING, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz issued an executive order shutting down bars, restaurants, and “other places of public accommodation” (theaters, museums, etc.) beginning at 5 p.m. March 17. That means only delivery, takeout, and drive-thru food for the foreseeable future: The order extends through March 27 at the minimum. Luckily, the Star Tribune reports there’s “plenty of food to go around”—despite grocery store sales that have outpaced Thanksgiving shopping, experts say there’s been no shortage. “We are not seeing tight quantities,” Cargill’s head of supply chain said.

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**SHOULDN’T REOPEN
NICOLLET** at the Kmart site?

Twin Cities arena and **STADIUM
CONCERTS ARE BEING POST-
PONED** amid coronavirus fears

TECH DUMP

Minneapolis Public Schools plan threatens award-winning robotics team

Patrick Henry High School in north Minneapolis boasts one of the most decorated urban robotics teams in America.

Since 2008 team “Herobotics” has been competing in the FIRST Robotics Competition, a league made up of thousands of teams across 30-some countries that build and program large metal robots.

The students and teachers of Henry’s engineering department also founded the Minneapolis Urban Robotics Alliance, where students volunteer to coach and judge grade-school kids’ Lego robot races..

Herobotics is a key source of pride for a school designated “racially isolated” by law because 91 percent of students are people of color, while 68 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch.

“People say, ‘Herobotics is everywhere.’ And that’s a compliment, meaning they’re seen at a lot of events throughout the com-

munity,” says engineering department chair David Sylvestre.

Yet Henry’s robotics dominance may be coming to an unexpected end.

Minneapolis Public Schools is holding listening sessions on a broad plan called Comprehensive District Design. It intends to distribute resources more equitably and improve outcomes for students of color by breaking up K-8 schools and moving magnets—programs dedicated to accelerated study in a certain subject—to the center of the city.

Changes proposed include downsizing the number of high school technology programs and concentrating them at North, Edison, and Roosevelt High Schools. That means Patrick Henry would lose its engineering classes.

Robotics teachers may be transferred to another school or have their positions eliminated. Herobotics may lose its 3-D



COURTESY OF HEROBOTICS

printer. Incoming freshmen who are passionate about engineering may have to choose between their studies and their “PHamily”—the system of neighborhood feeder schools around which Henry has fomented an identity.

Herobotics could stay as an after-school activity. But without daytime classes for students to learn the principles they’d apply to building robots, the future of the team is in question, says robotics teacher Latoya Grier.

“Without the 3-D printer, would we actually be able to sustain the club?” she asks, pointing out that Herobotics funds almost everything else independently.

Department chair Sylvestre hopes the district will recognize that robotics is engrained in Henry’s culture. “It is PHamily. There are a lot of roots here.”

According to the district’s modeling, both Henry and North would increase enrollment. Henry would remain racially isolated at 91 percent, and the percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch would increase.

The district had planned to offer a recommendation to the school board on March 24. However, Minneapolis schools will be out until at least April 6 in response to coronavirus. —SUSAN DU

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MARCH 4-25

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— THE — OUTDOORS ISSUE

Restaurants, bars, and movie theaters are closed. Crowds are out.
Time to get into nature.

When we started writing a special issue encouraging people to get out of their homes, it was... still safe for people to get out of their homes. The idea that our city, our country—the world—would go into lockdown to prevent a pandemic?

It seemed impossible. In many ways, it still does.

Experts say we might be avoiding concerts and movie theaters and crowds of any kind until the summer (at least) to curb the spread of COVID-19. But there's one thing we don't need to avoid: the great outdoors.

"I think outdoor space... I think being outside will be really crucial through this period—getting fresh air, getting exercise,"

Mass General physician Daniel Horn, who's leading a team that's strategizing to combat coronavirus, told the Atlantic. Minnesota State Parks are staying open (even if some buildings are closed). "Now is a great time to get outdoors," said state DNR commissioner Sarah Strommen. "Parks are a great place to do some social distancing and enjoy the health benefits of nature."

Don't do anything that makes you feel unsafe; maintain distance between your hiking or bikepacking partners; and for the love of mother nature, don't take a trek with friends if you feel sick. But when the blinds on your windows start to feel like bars on a cage, we hope this issue will help you find a place to escape, even if it's temporary.

"Nature is still there," Minnesota's DNR tweeted earlier this week. "You can be too."



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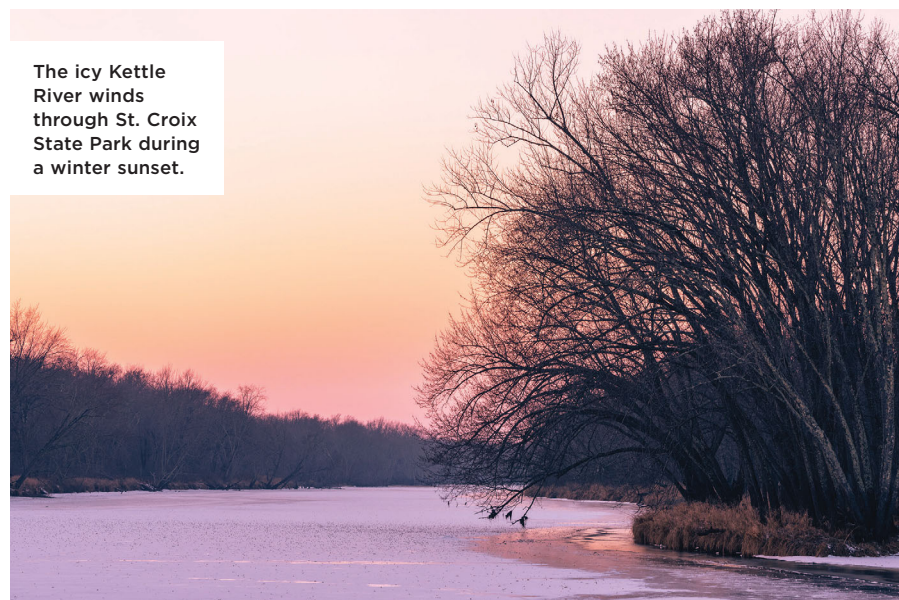
Hikers stand along the Baptism River near the frozen High Falls waterfall at Tettegouche State Park on a winter afternoon.

Minnesota state parks you can enjoy any time of the year

BY TONY WEBSTER

Minnesota has a state park for all types of recreation, whether you're looking for a relaxing lakeside weekend getaway or an extended backpacking trip. And with the state's I Can! beginner outdoor skills-building program and guide to accessible outdoor activities for people with disabilities, everyone can enjoy the outdoors—even now, as they're staying open and encouraging you to visit while social isolating. Here are some of our favorite year-round state park destinations.

The icy Kettle River winds through St. Croix State Park during a winter sunset.



TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

Recommended if you like: *North Shore views, waterfalls, rugged terrain*

Having to pick a favorite North Shore state park is like having to pick a favorite child: We shouldn't, but we can, and we did. It's Tettegouche State Park, about halfway

between Duluth and Grand Marais.

Though you can hit all the popular scenic hiking spots in half a day, you couldn't experience everything Tettegouche has to offer even if you spent a week there. Palisade Head and Shovel Point offer sweeping vistas of Lake Superior's rocky shoreline, and the High Falls waterfall on the Baptism River is well worth the hike.



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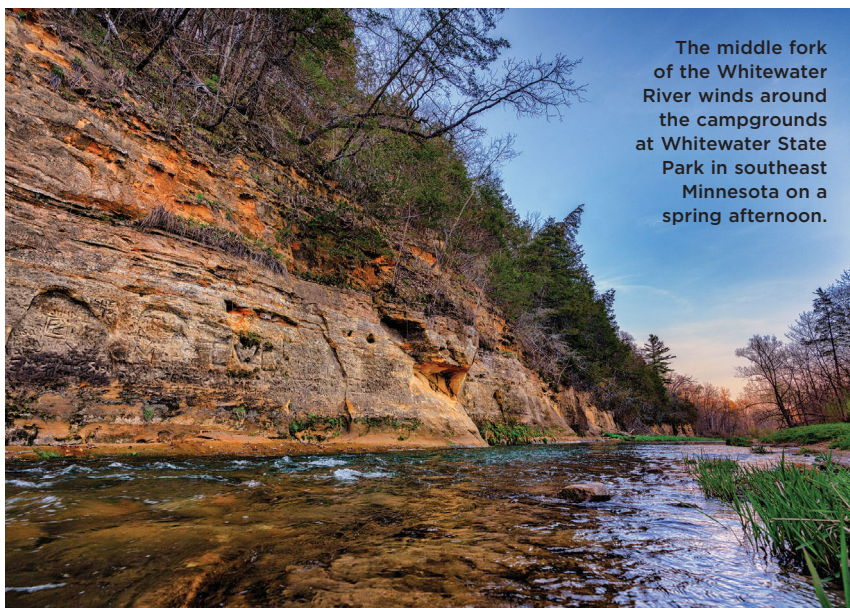
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Zippel Bay State Park's shoreline along Lake of the Woods in northern Minnesota



The middle fork of the Whitewater River winds around the campgrounds at Whitewater State Park in southeast Minnesota on a spring afternoon.



For more adventurous park-goers, Tettegouche offers a network of hiking trails varying from mild inclines to rugged terrain with forest overlooks and

“You couldn’t experience everything Tettegouche has to offer even if you spent a week there.”

precarious muddy switchbacks, leading to year-round rentable cabins at the remote Tettegouche Camp. The Superior Hiking Trail passes through the park, but backpackers looking to settle in for a few nights might prefer the reservable hike-

in campsites at nearby George Crosby Manitou State Park.

Tettegouche is a great winter destination, with groomed ski trails and snowshoes available for rent. The park is also popular with ATVers looking to access the surrounding trails and snowmobilers heading to the 146-mile North Shore State Trail.

Pro-tip: There can be tough competition for North Shore campsites, especially during long summer weekends and peak fall foliage season. But drive just 10 minutes inland from a packed Tettegouche State Park campground, and you might find the Eckland or Finland state forest campgrounds nearly empty.

ST. CROIX STATE PARK

Recommended if you like: dirt road drives, river recreation

Situated between Minneapolis and Duluth, St. Croix is Minnesota’s largest state park and an excellent getaway all year long.

In summer, explore panoramic overlook spots above the Kettle River and walk up

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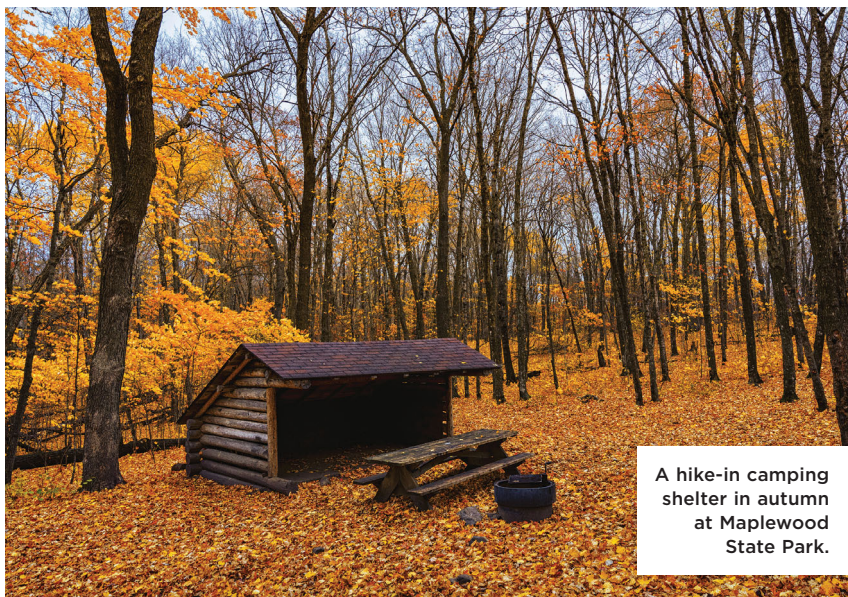


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OR PICK UP?**

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A hike-in camping shelter in autumn at Maplewood State Park.



Quartzite cliffs above the prairie at Blue Mounds State Park in southwest Minnesota.

the steep steps of an old fire tower that pokes above the thick forest canopy. The centralized campgrounds can get boisterous, but canoes and kayaks are available to rent for a paddle to a secluded river campsite. The park also has an equestrian campground with access to miles of horseback trails.

In winter, much of the park is closed to vehicle access, but park staff promptly plows the main roads leading to reservable cabins, guest houses, and year-round campsites with electric hookups and access to 11 miles of ski trails, and a warming house next to snowmobile trails with indoor fireplaces and heated restrooms.

ZIPPEL BAY STATE PARK

Recommended if you like: *ice fishing, snowmobiling*

Each autumn, at the northern edge of Minnesota, bright-yellow and -orange trees meet the sandy beaches at Zippel Bay State Park. Popular with anglers, the park offers a marina with access to the massive Lake of the Woods. There's not

much hiking here, but it's worth a stop for some fall color camping.

Winter is when the Lake of the Woods region truly comes alive. The park connects to hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails, and ice roads on the lake lead to heated fish-house rentals offered by nearby resorts, and even a bar and eatery, which Zippel Bay Resort sets up on the lake every year as soon as the lake ice thickens.

WHITEWATER STATE PARK

Recommended if you like: *blufftop views, springtime fishing*

Though Whitewater State Park in southeast Minnesota is a worthy escape year-round, springtime is especially delightful.

Enjoy the wildflowers on a leisurely stroll along a trout-filled creek, or do the strenuous hike to the top of the park's limestone bluffs before the leaves fill in to see a more dramatic view as eagles soar above the Whitewater River valley.

The park offers educational programs on maple syrup making, fly fishing, gardening, and more mushroom foraging,

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A sweeping vista of fall colors surround the Pigeon River at the Minnesota-Ontario border, as seen from Grand Portage State Forest.

and the unique geology and swiftly moving water mean your stay will be nearly mosquito-free.

MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

Recommended if you like: *wildlife viewing, fall color hikes*

Thick forests of maple and oak meet prairieland covering the rolling glacial hills at Maplewood State Park in west-central Minnesota. A five-mile scenic drive loop offers picturesque landscapes and is an

“Maplewood has an entirely different map for the winter season.”

excellent wildlife and bird-watching spot as winter fades to spring.

Thirty miles of trails provide hiking up to scenic overlooks and down to rustic camping shelters nestled deep in the forest, and the park has mountain biking and equestrian trail loops as well. Like many state parks, Maplewood has an entirely different map for the winter season, with cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobile trails winding through it.

Minnesotans hunting for that fleeting moment of peak fall color can enjoy it a little bit longer here as the vibrant pageantry of autumn makes its way across the varied topography.

Maplewood State Park has camping options for RVers and car campers, remote sites for backpackers, an equestrian campground, and camper cabins with heat and electricity. The park office has boats, canoes, and snowshoes available for rent.

BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK

Recommended if you like: *prairie life, climbing, biking*

Quartzite cliffs tower over the southwest Minnesota prairie at Blue Mounds State Park, telling a story of two billion years of geological processes. Reserve a tipi for your camping stay, and head out for a hike above or below the cliffs. Or bike on paved trails into the nearby town of Luverne.

Blue Mounds is home to a herd of bison, and tickets are available on a guided tour into their enclosure. Park trails are not maintained in winter, but are open for hiking and snowshoeing. The park is also a destination for rock climbers, with free permits available in the parking lot.

DON'T FORGET THE STATE AND NATIONAL FORESTS

Minnesota's state parks get all the attention, but the many state forests and the Superior and Chippewa national forests can offer some more adventurous recreation—especially in the Arrowhead Region.

Wake up at the edge of the Boundary Waters at the Trail's End Campground in summer, or rent a heated cabin at one of the many resorts along the Gunflint Trail and head for a hike on the Magnetic Rock Trail any time of the year.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources offers GeoPDF maps covering most of the state forests and public water access sites around the state. Open it up in the Avenza mobile app, and you'll see a dot showing where you are on the map—even when you don't have cell service. A location map shows where all the state forests and state forest campgrounds are located, and campground information is online for both the Superior National Forest and Chippewa National Forest. **CP**

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SPRING

APRIL 25 | GET SQUIRRELLY WITH SURLY

Lanesboro | Lanesboro's fourth annual Spring Pub Crawl. Serving Surly at participating bars. Great beer with friends and crawl on!

APRIL 24-26 | BLUFF COUNTRY STUDIO ART TOUR

Lanesboro | Begin at the Juried Sales Gallery at Lanesboro Arts, then travel scenic back roads to the studios of the area's artists.

MAY – OCT | FARMERS MARKET

Lanesboro, Sylvan Park | Saturdays 9am-noon | Local produce and goods for sale weekly.

MAY 9 | SPRING GIRLS DAY OUT

Lanesboro, downtown | Includes a style show, live music, street market, drawings and discounts in participating stores.

MAY 14-17 | BLUFF COUNTRY GATHERING

Lanesboro | Old-time music festival/camp with workshops, concert and square dance. May 15: Concert, May 16: Barn Dance.

MAY 25 | MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Lanesboro, Community Center | 10am | Honoring our fallen comrades with a parade, patriotic music, speakers and gun salute.

SUMMER

JUNE 6 | RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Lanesboro, Sylvan Park | Celebrate Minnesota's sweet-tart favorite. Free tastings of rhubarb delights, games, music and entertainment.

JUNE 20 | ART IN THE PARK

Lanesboro, Sylvan Park | Annual fine art festival—90+ exhibitors, delicious food, live music and entertainment.

JUNE 19-20 | 60-MILE GARAGE SALE

Trail Towns | Shop the nine towns along the Root River State Trail and everywhere in between.

JULY 30-AUG 2 | BUFFALO BILL DAYS

Lanesboro's city-wide festival: marketplace, entertainment, food booths, volleyball and softball tournaments, parade and fireworks.

FALL

AUG 14-15, SEPT 18-19, OCT 2-3 LANESBORO AREA ART TRAIL

Lanesboro | Take a self-guided tour of the area's best art studios.

SEPT 12 | FALL BEER AND WINE FEST

Lanesboro | Enjoy Oktoberfest and seasonal fall beers from Midwestern craft breweries at Lanesboro bars and restaurants.

SEPT 12, 19, 26 | TASTE OF THE TRAIL

Trail Towns | Sample cuisine and culture along the Root River State Trail! Three weekends in September. **Sept 12** - Lanesboro, Peterson, Whalan | **Sept 19** - Fountain, Harmony, Preston | **Sept 26** - Houston, Rushford, Rushford Village

SEPT 19-20 AND 26-27 HISTORY ALIVE POP-UP PLAYS

Lanesboro, Sons of Norway Lodge | 1pm and 3pm | True stories of Lanesboro's beginnings, performed in various historic locations.

SEPT 26 | FALL GIRLS DAY OUT

Lanesboro, downtown | This event includes a style show, live music, street market, drawings and discounts in participating stores.

OCT 3 | FALL INTO LANESBORO

Lanesboro | Welcome fall with activities for the whole family.

OCT 10 | THE FILTHY 50

Lanesboro | Register at thefilthy50.com. A beautiful, unsupported, gravel bicycle event. Race it or ride it—either way, get filthy.

WINTER

NOV 21 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC

Lanesboro | Holiday fun for the whole family! Cookie decorating, bonfires and Santa!

NOV 28 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC

Lanesboro | A day of holiday shopping and activities. Support Lanesboro Businesses on National Small Business Saturday®.

DEC 5 | HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE

Lanesboro, Community Center | Bring your friends to enjoy live entertainment, social hour, dancing and fine cuisine.

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What's on Your 2020 Bucket List?

The friendly people of Lanesboro, Minnesota (recently named in Oprah's "O Magazine" as "One of 60 Charming American Towns You Haven't Heard of But Should Visit ASAP!") invite you to put our one-of-a-kind town on your list. There's a fun game (with great prizes) to help you do just that!

Lanesboro, in southeast Minnesota's breathtaking "Bluff Country," offers biking, hiking, canoeing, tubing, kayaking, fishing, live theater and music, delicious restaurants and drinks, Amish tours, golf, family-friendly camping, comfy B & Bs, and inspiring artists. More than enough to fill your 'bucket!'

Here's How the Challenge Works:

Fun in Lanesboro has been organized into nine categories for this challenge. Examples include dining, lodging, and much more for first-time visitors and residents alike. Choose activities and places to visit during the year and collect prize-stickers along the way. Get 16 by 12/31/2020 and enter your name for a chance at prizes that include a Lanesboro get-away package (no purchase necessary). It's that simple—and that fun!

Find Fun in Lanesboro!

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Looking for some treats? Look no farther than **Another Time Ice Cream Parlor and Chocolates**, the **Aroma Pie Shoppe** (in Whalan), and the **Parkway Market and Coffee House**. The **Home Sweet Home Cafe and Cakery** offers delicious home-cooked food and goodies.

You'll find a variety of specialty shops, galleries and services in downtown Lanesboro in original 19th century buildings, including **Granny's Liquor**, **High Court Pub**, **Lanesboro Arts Galleries**, **Root River Rod Fly Fishing Outfitters & Guides**, **E2 Boutique**, and **Amish Experience**. Take a guided tour with **Bluffscape Amish Tours** to immerse yourself in Amish culture, homesteads and shops. A stop at the **Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center** will help you plan your visit, get questions answered, and is one place to turn in your completed bucket list card.

You can participate in the Bucket List Challenge any time of the year as Lanesboro has events going on winter, spring, summer and fall! **History Alive! Pop Up Plays** "tell the stories of Lanesboro on the streets of Lanesboro." The famous **Whalan Stand Still Parade** (the parade stands, you walk!) is a family-friendly treat. Many artists, like **Joni Finnegan**, call Lanesboro and this area home; visit their studios during the Bluff Country Studio Art Tour and the **Lanesboro Area Art Trail**. Come to **Buffalo Bill Days**, a weekend celebration of Lanesboro's connection to Buffalo Bill Cody. Lanesboro is the Rhubarb Capital of Minnesota—enjoy our annual **Rhubarb Festival** featuring rhubarb recipe taste testing, outdoor music, and rhubarb games!

The award-winning **Commonweal Theatre** presents its 32nd season in 2020 offering five plays from March to December, including "Doubt," "I Ought to be in Pictures," and "A Christmas Carol." If you've never seen a play at the Commonweal, this is a bucket list must!

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FLY FISHING

in Driftless America

How a frustrating, expensive, impossible-to-master pastime became a year-round source of joy

BY KURT STAFKI

If you know someone who spends a lot of time fly fishing and they tell you they love every minute of it, they're lying.

It's difficult not to hate our chosen pastime, at least sometimes. Numb fingers that make it impossible to tie knots. Picky fish. Mosquito swarms. Cold feet. It's like golf, if the hole could move or disappear completely. Fly fishing has shown me a side of frustration I didn't know someone could feel. And that's exactly what keeps me on the water all year long.

A fly-fishing shop called Mend Provisions opened in south Minneapolis in 2012, and the place supplied coolers full of cheap yellow beer and a twangy rock band for its first birthday party the following year. A friend invited me along, and though fly fishing was something I knew nothing about at the time, cheap yellow beer and twangy rock were extremely my thing.

(Two out of three ain't bad.) By the end of 2013, I had a freshly purchased fly rod and reel setup, maybe a dozen bugs, and no idea what I was getting myself into.

The goal of fly fishing is to catch fish. It's relatively simple. When most folks think of fly fishing, they think trout. But while many people only target browns and brooks and rainbows, fly fishing refers to the method of fishing rather than the type of fish that are caught. Lots of folks target panfish, bass, and even muskies with fly rods. Any fish that can be caught with a bobber or a crankbait can also be caught on the fly. Trout fishing is just more popularly connected with catching fish with a fly rod, so that's what I'll stick to.

When most people get into fly fishing, they first tag along with an experienced friend who knows the ropes. Not me.

I wisely dove head-first into an expensive hobby. It was May 2014 in Preston, Minnesota on the Root River when I spent my

first day on the water. My rod was correctly assembled—line threaded through each guide and everything. Without knowing anything about which fly to choose, I used a knot I learned from watching YouTube videos to attach the bug to the end of my line. My waders were pulled up and my vest had mostly empty pockets. That's where my knowledge stopped. I had no idea how to find fish, or even how to cast a fly in front of them if I were to find any.

And yet, somehow, I caught a fish. The rush of adrenaline when I saw the splash of the take and felt a tug on the line was something I'll never forget. Fake it until you make it, people.

But it was just dumb luck that I caught anything that first day. The ensuing handful of times I went fishing resulted in a series of skunks. In my first year, which included several trips to the Whitewater River during a particularly cold and snowy winter, I was skunked more often



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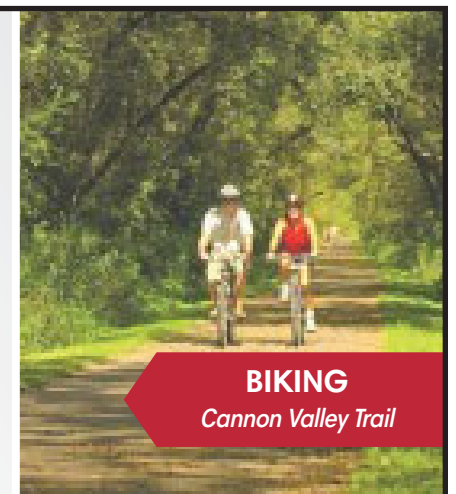
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than not. If you're new to fly fishing, or if you're thinking of getting into it, wait until the warmer months. You probably won't catch any fish, but at least you'll be warm. That winter was just downright miserable on the river. -2/10 would not recommend.

With practice (slowly) came more success. I was finally spending more time with a line on the water than I was untangling knots and unsnagging my flies from trees. To be clear, I still spend too much time not-fishing while trying to fish, but the ratio has slightly improved in my favor. I began occasionally catching multiple fish during a day, a trend that I'm pleased to report has continued. I also began slowing down and enjoying the beauty of rivers. Instead of throwing on my gear and rushing into the water to start fishing, I'd take my time and study the water, the wind, the flies, and the fish before even getting wet. It forced me to calm the fuck down and experience something.

...This is starting to sound like some transformative Zen experience, isn't it?

Fly fishing started to consume my time. Work weeks were spent waiting until the weekend to make escapes to a river. On

long summer days, I'd frequently skip town after work to go to the Kinni in River Falls, Wisconsin. Sometimes I'd drive an hour, fish for an hour until dark, then drive the hour back home. I can't say it made much sense to spend two hours driving for just one hour fishing, but I didn't—and still don't—care. Summer nights in a tight river valley with crickets and frogs and miniature fog clouds lingering over rapids are my third love language. Catching fish is becoming more of an added bonus these days.

If you know someone who spends a lot of time fly fishing, you know someone who has a very particular set of skills: mastery of knot untangling, advanced swearing, impressive beer tolerance, untold patience, and the observant eye of a sentry. They're also completely irrational. We've found something we love and we choose to do it the hard way. We choose to wake up well before dawn to stand in a frigid river until dark. We choose to shiver for hours at a time. We choose to drive hours out of the way to try a new spot. We choose to master something that never gets easier.

If I told you I hated it, I'd be lying to you. 

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Bikepacking for Beginners: The Overnighter

BY KURT STAFKI

Bikepacking is like backpacking. Except that instead of walking to campsites with everything on your back, you carry everything on your bike. Super basic stuff!

Some folks like to spend weeks, months, or years on the saddle, riding across the country or a network of backcountry trails and spending every night at a different campsite. Others would rather load up a bike, ride 30 miles to a campground, spend the night, pack up in the morning, and ride back home the next day. Both are bikepacking. And despite the suggestions of autocorrect, bikepacking *is* a word.

Spending one night camping by bike is what's called an overnighter. That's the easiest way to get into it, because you only need a limited amount of gear. You'll still need a sleeping bag, tent, change of clothes, bike tools, water, snacks, and gear to prepare for changing weather, but not as much as you'd need with multiple nights.

Packing your gear in panniers or frame bags makes for an easier ride, but you can also wear a backpack with your essentials inside. (The latter isn't quite as easy on the back or shoulders, though it'll get the job done.) Map your route properly and you

can even plan in a restaurant or bar stop so you won't need to ride with cooking gear. Biking and bar food do go hand in hand, after all.

If you're brave and seek a vision quest, go it alone. If you're brave and prefer to have a rolling party, ride with a group of friends and find a group campsite. If you're up for a true character-building activity, bikepack on a school night. There's no right or wrong way to camp by bike, and it can be as challenging or as simple as you want it to be.

While it's easy to fall victim to wanderlust and dream about spending a month camping by bike along the Pacific Coast Highway, most of us just don't have the PTO or ability to get away for that long. Take it easy to start. Find a couple friends, select a weekend, plan your route, then ride to a local park for a night in the woods before packing up your bags and riding home the next day. You'll be a pedaling Jack Kerouac before you know it.

Minneapolis is lucky to have several great bikepacking options for overnighters. It's easy to find a place to camp in just about any direction from the city; some campgrounds even have campsites reserved for bikepackers and bikepackers only. Here, try these:

BAKER PARK RESERVE

Let's begin this short list with the easiest option. The route is about 30 miles west from Bull's Horn bar in south Minneapolis — no matter how far behind schedule I inevitably fall, it's important to make time for a beer before leaving on an overnighter — on a crushed limestone trail that's built on an old railroad bed. (Read: no hills.) My first time bikepacking was here. You'll ride paved bike trails to Hopkins, then hop on a gravel trail that'll take you along Lake Minnetonka before getting to the park. We stopped in Excelsior for dinner on the way out and stopped in Victoria for liquor and breakfast food on the way back, which allowed us to ride without cooking gear. It's pretty much the perfect place to bikepack if you're just getting started.

WHITETAIL WOODS REGIONAL PARK

If sleeping in a tent isn't your thing (yet), you'll like the cabins at Whitetail Woods. This would be what's known in "the biz" as bikeglamping. The cabins were built about five years ago and are still trendy AF. It's tough to get a reservation, so you'll need to book this trip several months in advance, or save it for a weeknight when

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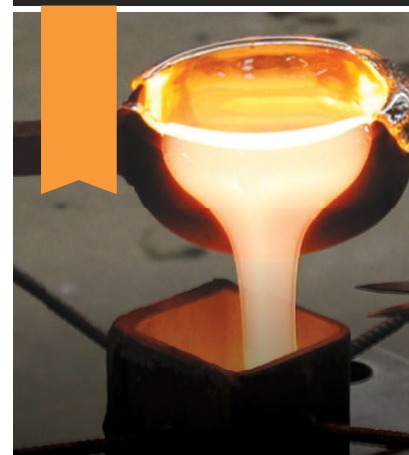


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it's easier to find an opening. The route follows suburban roads through Rosemount before escaping the sprawl and finding the park. This option isn't 100 percent bikepacking-friendly yet — you need to pick up the key at Lebanon Hills the day of your reservation and there isn't any firewood at the park, which means you'll have to pick it up on the way and ride with it. Not entirely ideal, but the destination is absolutely worth it.

AFTON STATE PARK

With Bull's Horn as a starting point, you'll head almost due east. It's a 70ish-mile round trip that'll take you along the Mississippi River with a climb out of the river valley before a nice ride over rolling hills that'll take you to the park. Drinking water is available and you can pay a small fee for firewood at the campground. Pick a summer weekend and meet up to ride after lunch. It'll take you a few hours on a fully loaded bike. Then pitch your tent, build a fire, and relax in a hardwood forest before riding back home the next day.

SAND DUNES STATE FOREST

Sounds like a magical, far-flung place, doesn't it? While Sand Dunes is indeed magical, far-flung is not quite accurate. Of the four bikepacking destinations on our abbreviated list, this one requires the most riding. You'll ride up the Mississippi River through Champlin, Elk River, and Big Lake before riding north from the river to the park. It's about 50 miles each way. We stopped at Lupulin Brewing to wait out a storm and order pizza and still made it in time for a swim at the beach before dark. That night involved a substantial quantity of adult beverages, which then forced us to take the North Star Rail back to Minneapolis instead of riding another 50 miles. But in some cases, such as ours, that's actually the best part: You can take the train home instead of getting back on your bike!

(It's important to note that all of these campgrounds require reservations, so be sure to check availability in advance.)

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Outside In

A Minneapolis artist thinks we can save the natural world — by creating virtual ones

BY HANNAH JONES

The Special Collections section of the Minneapolis Central Library probably isn't the first place you think of as a window to the great outdoors. It sits behind a gothic-looking archway made of dark, imposing wood, as if to warn wanderers they're approaching serious nerd territory. But within, you'll find the Spencer Natural History Collection: precious nature books from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.

The pages are yellowed, the titles long, the spelling inconsistent and cumbersome. There are accounts of "monfrous flowers," the "general hiftory, virtues, and ufes of plants," and a depressingly large hardcover volume from 1907 labeled simply "Extinct Birds."

But tucked between blocks of old, stuffy words, you'll find the illustrations: ivory-billed woodpeckers with each feather lovingly rendered by hand; spidery prints of poppies, worts, and "flouring reed;" a "fox-taile graffe" drawn methodically from root to tufted seed.

Hundreds of years ago, people living right where we live now looked at some of the same wild plants we see today and tried to record and preserve them for posterity. A book lasts longer than the average poppy, but the collection too has a limited shelf life. Some of these volumes

are kept in little protective cases, so the pages won't be lost when the binding inevitably crumbles.

And unlike real poppy fields, only one or two people can enjoy them at a time, under the watchful eye of a librarian.

Enter Paige Dansinger. Before she was showing art at the Guggenheim, presenting at the Met, or participating on Minneapolis's Nobel Peace Forum, she was a Twin Cities kid in love with her mother's garden. She spent hours drawing the flowers as an elementary school student, and she still has a painting of her daffodils hanging in her Minneapolis home.

"All my flowers are honestly done as a tribute... to my mom and people close to me," she says.

Dansinger still draws flowers, but not the way she used to, and certainly not the way the botanists featured in the Central Library's collection did. Now she creates digital poppies, dandelion fields, and waterlily ponds with a set of virtual reality paintbrushes.

As an artist-in-residence with the Minneapolis Athenaeum, she worked with Central Library's Teen Tech Center to create VR versions of that 18th century botanical art: apple blossoms you could hold and turn with the flick of a wrist, sunflowers you could regard from every angle. Some of the teens' renderings were projected onto the library ceil-

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ing during the 2018 Northern Spark arts festival. Some you could even wear, with the help of a flower patch that burst into a 3D colorscape when scanned with a phone.

Meanwhile, in her Better World Museum space downtown, Dansinger and countless community members worked together to paint a virtual garden bursting with flowers and glittering butterflies and design an “edible” garden where the public could use advanced tech to grow real plants.

And this year, at the MIT Reality Hackathon, she created an augmented reality (AR) program that let people plant, pollinate, and grow virtual gardens wherever they were in the real world—like Pokemon Go, but for dandelions. You can check it out by downloading the ARize app on your phone and searching for her name.

Dansinger’s a futurist through and through. She likes using the latest technology available and playing in spaces beyond what we understand, even for tasks as seemingly simple as drawing a daisy. But that doesn’t mean the future doesn’t scare her.

Like a lot of us, she thinks a lot about the looming, existential threat of climate change, and the uncertainty of our future as a species. Minnesota is one of the fastest-warming states in the nation. Parts of it are now between 1 and 3 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than they were a century ago, just a few years after “Extinct Birds” was published. A lot of Minnesota’s flora and fauna are already sallying northward to cooler climes, lest dryness and disease take them.

But Dansinger sees her medium as part of the solution.



“There are studies about VR that signify a growth of neural activity different than any other art form,” she says. Being immersed in a world you create can have interesting effects on your imagination, your sense of empathy, and your emotions. Researchers are currently exploring its implications for art therapy, but Dansinger thinks it can help us face the future, too.

“I believe when people draw together, they literally draw together into communities,” she says. “That in itself creates a model for resilience building. It dissolves isolation and feelings of powerlessness.”

Like dusty old library collections, VR may seem like an unlikely tool to better connect us to nature—let alone help us save it. Usually it conjures up visions of future humans sitting alone in blank rooms, pretending to be someplace lush and sunny without ever really going there. But Dansinger says VR, like the future, is what you make it, and she chooses to make it a blossoming utopia.

“Nature and technology are each other’s reflections,” she says. “A positive view of the future is very easy to create within technology.” 



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How to find and photograph

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

BY SUSAN DU

Of all northern Minnesota's outlandish natural wonders aside from Sasquatch himself, the ephemeral and elusive northern lights are the most spectacular.

In order to catch aurora borealis powerful enough to photograph, the conditions in space and on Earth have to be just so, and you've got to plant yourself in the right spot at the right time. Aurora may last less than an hour and peak for only a few minutes, so most of the work lies in the preparation.

To begin, it helps to have a basic notion of what the northern lights are. The science behind the phenomenon is intimidating, so here's the popsci version: The sun is a mad fusion-powered star that occasionally hurls plasma particles at Earth. Those particles don't fry us in the face (the way they sometimes wreck satellites) because Earth has a defensive magnetic field. At the north and south poles, the sun particles collect and collide with the oxygen and nitrogen of our atmosphere. That reaction results in photons, or light, in lots of different colors. Mostly green.

The hunt for aurora starts in space, with figuring out when the sun's throwing stuff our way.

It's a good thing we have satellites that stalk the sun's every move and measure the speed and intensity of solar storms. All that information is provided for free online by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (swpc.noaa.gov), which offers a nifty aurora forecast.

The problem with NOAA data is it can be chunky and unwieldy for non-science people. A paid service that helpfully translates NOAA data into plain English is Soft Serve News, which you can set up to send text alerts when a badass aurora's brewing in your area. Free Facebook pages that also monitor space weather are Great Lakes Aurora Hunters and SolarHam.

Once you know there's an incoming show, you'll want to make sure you're looking up at the right time of night. You'll want a sky that's dark and clear, without clouds, or a large moon. Get to a place as far north as you can go with an unobstructed view of the northern horizon, such as on top of a hill or on the southern shore of a large lake or big field away from cities and feedlots with light pollution.

Lightpollutionmap.info is a great dark sky finder. It also shows that Solana State Forest is one of the darkest places in Minnesota that is public land and also relatively close to the Twin Cities.

Once you've found the perfect spot, throw your camera up on a tripod. Choose a lens with a wide open aperture, and crank up your ISO. Try to find a visually interesting foreground subject like an abandoned shack, a gnarly tree, a cool rock formation, or some reflective body of water.

Because it's difficult to predict down to the hour exactly when a show will take place, you might have to either sit up and watch the sky for several hours, or program your camera to take a photo every 5-10 seconds and create a time lapse for you. Keep in mind that while your odds of seeing aurora are best in winter when the nights are dark and the skies are clear, you and your batteries can survive outside longer in the summer.

Do you have shelter? Are you that variety of Minnesotan who does winter camping? Are you starting in the cities, or are you already staying somewhere far north enough to be worth the chase? These are all important factors to consider. Everyone hunts differently. 



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Camping on a Budget

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

During plague outbreaks in medieval times, rich folk would flee large cities for the relative safety of the bucolic countryside. Thankfully, these days you don't have to be loaded to escape the Twin Cities for a weekend of trees, lakes, and pretty views. Whether you're running from the coronavirus, the zombie apocalypse, or student loans, here are some tips to help you enjoy camping without taking on more debt.

TIMESHARE OR RENT THE PRICIER ITEMS

Spending \$200 to \$500 on a tent that you'll use once a year is no way to live. Instead, consider organizing a timeshare. Round up a few nature-loving friends willing to put down cash for some collectively owned equipment to be used throughout the year by reservation. Four couples willing to drop \$100 each on gear means you can rough it real nice.

Another option is to rent the spendier things you need for each excursion. REI offers a variety of stuff for rental, including tents, backpacks, and sleeping bags, and they even have things like hiking boots, ice

axes, lanterns, and stoves. (Be prepared, though: You will need to fork over a \$100 to \$200 deposit.)

Other places worth checking out: Hoigaard's has cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals, and you can score deep discounts on new items at Midwest Mountaineering in the Thrifty Outfitters section.

DO SOME THRIFT SHOPPING AND FIX YOUR BUSTED GEAR

The Repair Lair on East Lake Street has lots of name-brand secondhand camping gear for sale. It's also a great place to go if you have busted items. They'll fix anything from messed-up zippers on backpacks to a neglected tent that needs a hole patched up.

Play It Again Sports is another spot to hunt for gently used stuff. While the inventory is always changing, you can often find cold-weather clothing, fishing rods, sporting equipment, shoes, camping set-ups, and pretty much anything else your excursion might need.

Online, you can often find deals surfing through Craigslist ads or Facebook Marketplace. NextDoor has a "for sale and free" section, though you'll have to wade

through some delusional markups or barter hard in order to get actual cheap stuff.

DIY THE SHIT OUT OF EVERYTHING

This is your chance to get hella creative with your survivalist skills. Do you own a Nalgene water bottle? In the evening, fill it with hot water and shove it in your sleeping bag. Boom! Now it's a bed warmer. Use your growlers to carry beer and clean water. Got some of those joke birthday candles laying around? You can use them if you're struggling to make a campfire, and the wax can be used to smooth out snaggy zippers. Extra garbage bags can work as a tent liner or a rain poncho. You can even wad up this newspaper and use it as a firestarter. You've got this, MacGruber!

INVEST IN TOMORROW

Sometimes spending a little more upfront can save you a lot. While most year-round parking passes will set you back \$30 to \$40, they can be used at a variety of locations throughout the state—and right here in the Twin Cities. Imagine being able to use the patron lot at Bde Maka Ska. Crazy, right? 



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Faced With Climate Change, Skiers Pull Out the Big Guns

Snow gun technology is keeping Minnesota's ski parks open despite threats from climate change. But could their own carbon footprint crush these efforts?

BY ANNIE HARVIEUX

I. READY, AIM, FIRE

I spent much of my early twenties cross-country skiing in a T-shirt, with no gloves on. In Boston, the nearby ocean kept our winter air mild and muggy. Each snowfall rarely lasted more than a few weeks before descending to the sewers as runny slush.

My team practiced on a golf course in the suburbs, on manmade snow produced by snow-gun technology: heavy machinery that feeds pressurized water into large cannons

that break it up into particles, blast-freeze it, then blow it into the air. In doing so, the course could stockpile enough snow to supplement nature's paltry offerings and make skiing available most days of the winter.

The manmade snow was a miracle, allowing us to ski enough to have a fair fight against teams from Maine or upstate New York. But after a month or so, I got sick of the inescapable churning sounds right by the trail, the horizontal spray of snow into my face. "Don't eat the snow, it's

made of water from the Charles," I was once told, calling to mind the oily bits and goose droppings I'd seen bobbing in the river.

I grew up skiing the city trails in Duluth and Grand Marais, and it felt like Boston was making me learn a new sport: a post-apocalyptic cross-country designed for a time when the wooded trails are gone and only windswept golf courses remain. Upon returning to the Midwest, I found the landscape is changing nationwide, including right here in Minnesota, where manmade snow production was accelerated for

March's skiing World Cup (which ended up being canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with many other local recreational ski seasons).

From Minneapolis to the Rocky Mountains, climate change is coming for snow. Scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency and University of Colorado-Boulder have teamed up to examine models of the future of ski conditions, and the results are grim. Using a sample of five climate models, two emission scenarios (moderate and high), and simulations of natural

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snow accumulation at almost 250 locations across the contiguous United States, both moderate- and high-emission scenarios indicated that winter could be cut short by more than half as soon as 2050, wreaking havoc on the ski tourism industry.

As with most climate-disaster scenarios, things look worse on the coasts. As Cameron Wobus, a hydrology research scientist working with the EPA, told reporters at climate.gov: "By the end of the century, people will not be skiing in New England."

II. THE NEW NORMAL

"I think most skiers agree and see the writing on the wall, if you will, that our natural snow is going to be less reliable," says Matt Ryan, a representative of the Duluth Cross Country Ski Club. "If we really want to

"If we really want to continue to ski, we're going to need to have machine-made snow."

continue to ski, we're going to need to have machine-made snow." Ryan was involved in organizing and fundraising for a ski-based community center on Grand Avenue in Duluth that's accessible by public transit and provides group lessons, communal activities, gear rentals, and snowmaking, to a wider demographic of skiers.

With seasons already shortening, communities are increasingly relying on manmade snow. In Minnesota, active snowmaking for cross-country skiers is happening at Theodore Wirth Park (Golden Valley), the Vasaloppet Trails (Mora), Elm Creek Park Reserve (Maple Grove), Spirit Mountain (Duluth), and Hyland Park Reserve (Bloomington), with development at other parks.

Over decades as a chief of course and a technical delegate at events ranging from the Salt Lake City Olympics to the FIS Ski World Cup, Duluth's Gary Larson has watched ski seasons shrink. "It seems like when I was up at Giants Ridge, we were always open by Thanksgiving," he says. "I'd say it was a very odd year when we weren't open. And now it seems like you're pushing your luck to be open at Thanksgiving."

When the season itself is shorter, customer volume is reduced, and employees' hours are cut—there are massive financial and staffing implications incentivizing organizations to produce snow for their facilities. According to advocacy group Pro-

tect Our Winters, reduced winter sports participation during recent low-snow years typically costs 17,400 jobs, and decreased value added to the American economy by \$1 billion.

For ski facilities in rural areas, choosing between the expense of snowmaking and the ghost town of snowless trails is a life-and-death balancing act.

"Unlike in the Cities where you have all the population, there's probably 100 residents [of the Cable, Wisconsin area] that ski who are going to pay for the pass, so that means you're relying on being a tourist destination," says Ben Popp, executive director of the American Birkebeiner race in Wisconsin. "So as an organization, we say, 'What are our other revenue streams?' In our case it's the [Birkebeiner] race."

After the American Birkebeiner was canceled in 2017 due to lack of snow, staff leapt to make changes, from snowmaking to a year-round brand expansion. "We had a really great dialogue on, OK, as an organization and as a leader in the ski community, perhaps we need to do more than just put on a single event, and actually be a year-round lifestyle that skiing is a part of," Popp says.

III. RESOURCE ROUNDUP

The water required for snowmaking is no light flurry. According to Snow Makers, Inc., a popular snow-gun manufacturer used by Spirit Mountain, it takes 20,000 cubic feet of snow to cover an area 200 feet by 200 feet. That requires 74,600 gallons of water. In initial estimates, the Nordic area alone at Spirit Mountain requires two million gallons of water to be snowed in, which Larson says is a "minor part" of the amount needed to cover Spirit's alpine facilities.

Luckily, the Grand Avenue project's location, nestled at the base of the Spirit Mountain alpine facility, allows it to share resources and avoid unnecessary expense. Ryan explains, "We're taking advantage of Spirit's existing snowmaking infrastructure, parking lot, and Grand Avenue chalet."

Skiing itself has become a more fuel-intensive activity. "Our cross-country skiing has evolved a long way from wood skis and knickers on a narrow path through the woods. It's about a diesel-powered Piston-Bully [brand machine] grooming a highway through the woods so we can have perfect corduroy [trail] and deep, solid classic tracks. That's what we all want, and we should be aware that the desire to have a manicured trail contributes to climate change."

One energy-saving step is to use untreated water not fit for human consumption, a common practice for golf courses and soccer fields in the U.S. as well as at resorts in Europe and Australia. The Grand Avenue Nordic Center uses Saint Louis River water, in conjunction with Spirit Mountain, which switched from its previous source: city tap water. "And then, because Spirit Mountain



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is in the St. Louis River drainage, in theory all the water used in snowmaking eventually gets back to the river,” Larson explains.

But there are concerns with wastewater use. It could contain hard-to-trace pharmaceutical remnants, and industrialization might cut into natural resources, threatening an existing way of life. (For example: the decades-long battle over sacred land between the Hopi indigenous nation and the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort.) The American Birkebeiner facility had trouble securing enough water in the first place—Popp says that even high-capacity wells requiring state approval could not keep up with snowmaking demands, necessitating resurrection of an old reservoir pond for future years.

Even making compressed air is an energy-intensive process, though the efficiency of snowmakers has greatly improved since their origin decades ago. Early snow guns required between 450 to 1,000 cubic feet per meter of snow; newer ones take more like 20 to 140 CFM.

City and state regulations can help nudge organizers in a more conscious direction. Larson cites guidance from Duluth as an important guide in addressing environmental concerns. “From the beginning, the design we had here at Grand Avenue is LED [lights], which have a much smaller footprint and carbon cost. Also, the system was designed to be on motion detectors so they dim down if no one is on the trail... the city went ahead and put solar panels in for the lighting at Lester [ski trail] and that certainly might be something that we could work towards with the city at Spirit too.”

Duluth also provided helpful guidance about reducing noise pollution. “We have some neighbors that we had to be concerned with for following the state regulations for the noise level because primarily it’s colder at night and so snowmaking takes place in those proper temperatures, and you want to make snow as long as you can, because shutting down the system is really time-consuming. We did actually end up getting a snow gun that’s called a ‘Silent,’ it has acoustic shrouding on it so it’s less noisy.”

IV. CARBON, CLIMATE, AND COMMITMENT

Despite these efforts, manmade snow is only an option if the air is less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit, making it irrelevant in a future where Minnesota winter temperatures drift into the 40s and 50s.

If trail managers are having conversations about climate change that lead to buying snowmaking equipment, they must acknowledge the reality of continually climbing temperatures. For now, the Minnesota organizations employing snowmaking have to decide between haphazard use of natural resources, possibly contributing to temperature increases, or looking for more environmentally sound practices: a snow gun that requires less energy, or investing in

carbon offsets for the energy used on one’s facility or weather prediction systems like the European Union’s PROSNOW project to reduce excess snowmaking.

Minnesota programs are weighing a number of other factors alongside snowmaking expense, such as equity initiatives. Describing Duluth XC’s goals for the Grand Avenue Nordic Center, Ryan excitedly lists “learn-to-ski days, free lessons, free rentals with a sponsorship, to get people out there on snow... the beauty of Grand Avenue is that you can work with bus lines and community centers to get people there.”

Ryan adds, “We want to enhance and continue the legacy of cross-country skiing in Duluth, and a lot of that has to do with getting opportunities for more people to be able to ski.”

When it comes to the ski community’s own carbon footprint, Larson acknowledges that guidance and regulations may be necessary, even in well-intentioned communities. “I think cross country skiers generally, across the board, care about climate change. Like I say, a cross-country trail parking lot has a lot of Priuses.

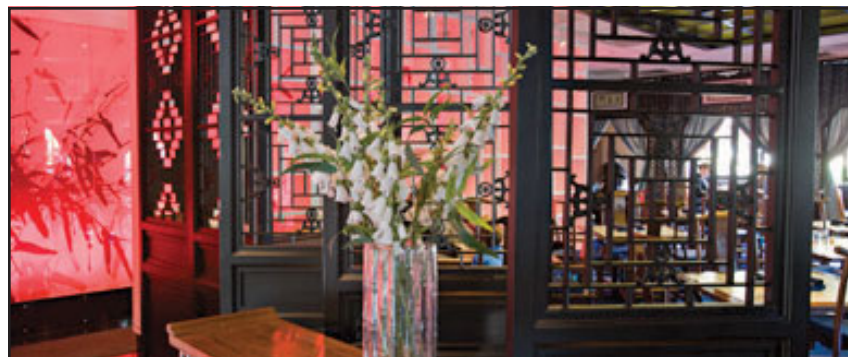
“I think, primarily, they want to be able to ski, so snowmaking was the first priority,” he continues. “When we started the planning, I don’t think there were necessarily a lot of good examples of offsets... I think it’s going to be voluntary first, but let’s hope that we are going to have some type of regulation that requires that to happen, similar to the power companies.”

Across state lines, the Birkebeiner staff is confident the ski community will make good choices. “Skiers are really smart, and they want to do what’s right, and they will spend money and invest in things they know are the right thing to do,” Popp explains. “As much as we love skiing, and as much as we love being active on snow, we just love being outside and are good stewards of the environment.”

Can skiers imagine a future without snow? As our conversation ended, Popp and I each admitted that we could, that we had.

The worst-case future he envisions is vibrant and natural: “The people who like to be outdoors are still here, and even if there’s no skiing, we’re still highlighting this component of the whole lifestyle. While we love skiing absolutely, there are a lot of other things we love about being outside, and it might be we have to embrace those instead.”

While Minnesota’s manmade-snow parks like Theodore Wirth have better terrain than my Boston golf course of yore, I still savor the opportunity to ski on natural snow, to glide through a thick forest in a quiet that’s free of machinery, real snowflakes glistening on the boughs of trees. But even when I’m lucky enough to be alone in the woods in a real snowfall, I can’t help but think, How long until I can never do this again? Which romp in the snow will be my last? ☒



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DANIEL MURPHY

When it opened in summer 2016, Wild Mind Artisan Ales staked its success on a few unique elements. One was its location, an industrial nook deep in south Minneapolis surrounded by residential neighborhoods, and miles from its closest competitors.

Another was its coolship, a long, shallow steel tub traditional to Belgian ale brewing. This coolship chills the wort (the mixture of malt and hot water, step one of beer-making) overnight in the open air, allowing bacteria and naturally occurring yeast to creep into the beer.

The resulting brew is always sour, often a little strange, and rare around these parts. (In awarding Best Brewery honors in 2019, City Pages called Wild Mind's coolship sour program "trailblazing.") A 2017 blog post on the brewery's website credits brewer Mat Waddell with wielding its coolship, the "first one in Minnesota for spontaneous fermentation in the lambic style of brewing."

SOUR RECIPE

A nasty legal fight between Wild Mind Artisan Ales and its ex-brewer

BY MIKE MULLEN

The website is outdated. Waddell left the brewery more than a year ago. And these days Wild Mind leaves writing about Waddell up to its lawyers.

Wild Mind started as a three-man operation. Tylor Johnson and Jason Sandquist had business backgrounds in property and commercial real estate. Waddell, who quit a job as an engineer with Medtronic and invested \$40,000 in the brewery out-of-pocket, was the brewing brain.

In mid-December 2018, Waddell told Sandquist and Johnson he wanted out, and was taking a job with 3M. Exactly how Wad-

dell explained his career change is still in dispute. Sandquist and Johnson took the announcement as news Waddell was leaving the brewing industry altogether. Waddell, in a response filed by his attorney, says he just wanted to "resign from Wild Mind."

According to legal filings, Waddell negotiated a buyout of his 35 percent stake in the company for \$150,000. Then, a few months later, his name and face resurfaced, this time as the head of the "mixed culture" line of sour beers at BlackStack Brewing in St. Paul. Pictures from a May 7, 2019 story on the Growler's website showed Waddell

and the BlackStack crew sipping pints and smiling.

Two days later, attorneys at Chestnut Cambronne issued a letter accusing Waddell of sharing "confidential information and trade secrets of Wild Mind." The letter laid out a slew of accusations against Waddell, including that he'd deleted Wild Mind's beer recipes, though not before "reliable sources" saw him photograph the recipes off a computer screen.

The letter ordered Waddell to return the recipes and cease and desist his new venture, which, it warned, "may expose BlackStack to liability" — to say nothing of Waddell himself, who was officially put "on notice that there is a dispute and potential litigation."

This was merely the first volley in a series of escalating exchanges that culminated in Wild Mind Artisan Ales, LLC, filing suit against Mat Waddell in December 2019, a year and a few days after he'd told his former business partners he was leaving. Exposed

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DANIEL MURPHY

to the open air, the relationships behind Wild Mind were just as surprising—and sour—as the mixtures in its prized coolship.

In the months since that first letter, the two feuding parties have only grown further apart in their understanding of the basic facts surrounding Waddell's tenure at, and exit from, Wild Mind.

The brewery's complaint added new claims, including the sweeping allegation that Waddell had been "grossly derelict" and "rarely present" for most of the entire year before he left. Through this inattention, the brewery alleged, two batches of beer that either "had not been checked or managed" or "had not been properly brewed" had to be dumped by Waddell's successor, at a loss of some \$105,000 to the brewery.

The complaint also restated that Wild Mind no longer had access to its recipes, that Waddell purposely misled his partners about his future plans "to avoid the inclusion of a non-compete provision," and that his collaboration with BlackStack "necessarily requires disclosure of Wild Mind's confidential information."

Waddell's attorney, Aaron Thom, fired back with a response filed in January, rebutting most of the claims in the complaint. Wild Mind's recipes are stored on software the company still has, his response says, and he hasn't shared any "proprietary information" through his work for BlackStack.

Waddell didn't stop there, layering on explosive counter-claims of his own:

- That in three years, Waddell was underpaid on his expected salary of \$55,000 by a total of roughly \$76,000;
- That one bartender quit after Johnson made "inappropriate sexual advances" toward her, and another quit after confronting Sandquist for "taking and retaining tips," as he "often" did on weekend shifts;
- That Waddell had started working

different hours to avoid a "toxic" environment set by his partners, who "lost their tempers" and "ridiculed" him in public.

Sandquist and Johnson deny the allegations about their conduct through Wild Mind's attorney, Emeric Dwyer, who said, "It is unfortunate that Mr. Waddell [has] chosen to try and invent or embellish facts to embarrass members of the company... to make dirty laundry public, and force the company into backing down on its claims."

Wild Mind's key argument, that Waddell misrepresented his exit to avoid a non-compete clause, is "not just semantics," Dwyer says. At its heart, it is "a matter of, how do you protect a company's reputation and intellectual property?"

The two sides met in court for the first time earlier this month for a hearing on two motions. Thom, Waddell's attorney, argued Wild Mind should have to pay his legal fees upfront during the case. Wild Mind, meanwhile, pushed for monthly payments from Waddell's buyout to instead be paid into the court, pending a settlement or ruling. The judge has 90 days to rule on both motions.

The buyout itself might be their next battleground: Waddell now believes \$150,000 undervalued his share of the company, and his attorney says he's mulling the idea of rescinding that agreement to bargain for a better deal.

Waddell says opening a brewery was "an epically great creative outlet" for him, and made great connections for him within the local brewing community, but that he was happy to leave Wild Mind behind—or so he thought.

"I was back to being me, and it was wonderful," Waddell says of starting his new job at 3M. "Then in May, when I got that first cease and desist letter, my heart just sank."



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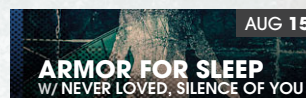
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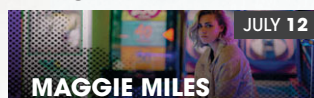
AUG 16



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JULY 12



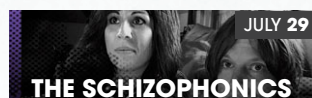
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WELCOME TO A-LIST. Normally, it's filled with the best things happening in the Twin Cities this week. However, with coronavirus on the prowl, we're staying home. Instead, we're profiling a local author with a new book, showcasing a gallery show you can check out online, and telling you what movie not to stream.

ANTON TREUER RALLIES OJIBWE WARRIORS

Why saving Native language matters

BY ERICA RIVERA

Indigenous languages are disappearing. Across the U.S. and Canada, where there were once 500 such languages spoken, today 150 remain. Of those, only 20 are spoken by children. Ojibwe is among them. There are 500 speakers of Ojibwe left; most of them reside in Minnesota.

Anton Treuer is one of those speakers, and he's fighting to keep the language of his ancestors alive. The professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University is calling on others to assist in the onerous task of language revitalization in his new book, *The Language Warrior's Manifesto*.

The barriers to teaching and learning indigenous languages are profound. Native people have endured colonization, historical trauma, and endemic poverty. Communities often don't have enough money or resources to meaningfully invest in indigenous language revitalization. They're worried about food, clothing, and shelter instead, resulting in a sense of complacency about indigenous languages like Ojibwe.

"People wish it well, they just don't necessarily do things to make it well," Treuer says. "I think there's a tendency for people in the mainstream to think of languages as like pretty birds singing in the forest. Like, 'We love all the pretty birds. That's neat. But not important.' And that's simply not the case."

Most of education in the U.S. is taught in English, and data shows it isn't serving indigenous students; only 50 percent finish high school. "The education system that ignores us and denigrates our existence

will not be the source of our liberation," Treuer writes.

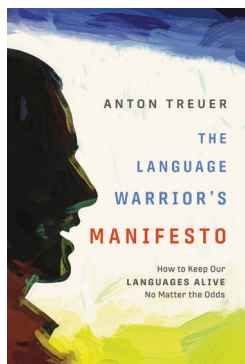
Immersion language schools are one of the solutions. They've been found to reduce truancy, increase test scores, and connect students to their communities and tribal traditions. Since the biggest predictor of what language a child will speak is not the language of their parents, but the language of their peers, immersion schools are a crucial component in preserving indigenous languages.

"Language revitalization is not just about the pretty bird. It is a tool that the data shows engenders academic success, engagement from students, and supports tribal sovereignty," Treuer says.

Language is a cornerstone of culture, and Treuer believes it's "pretty inextricable" from identity. "For anybody who has their language, they have this unique way of looking at the world."

He began seeking out Ojibwe language resources and instruction as an adult during and after his education at Princeton. Elders played a crucial role in his learning—as did falling in love. Treuer, a father of nine, believes that in the same way a parent's love for their children pushes them to overcome the challenges of parenting, people must fall in love with their tribal languages in order to make revitalization a priority. "If you really fall in love with it, you'll be highly motivated," he says. "You'll figure the rest out."

You don't have to be a teacher or a student to participate in indigenous language revitalization. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has teamed up with the Minnesota



GREENE PHOTOGRAPHY

Historical Society Press to develop a literary tradition for what was formerly an oral language. A team of 50 people that includes elderly speakers, aides, transcriptionists, text editors, marketers, publicists, grant writers, and outreach workers are collaborating to make that happen.

On other language revitalization projects, young people have been recruited to work as actors in short videos or to do website development. The Ojibwe People's Dictionary, an online resource from the University of Minnesota that allows users to search and listen to Ojibwe vocabulary, is in

need of data entry workers. "Depending on somebody's interests and aptitudes, there are a lot of ways to get involved," Treuer says.

While the future vitality of the Ojibwe language is uncertain, Treuer is inspired by the ways immersion schools, resource development, community work, and ceremonial resurgence and growth have breathed new life into the Ojibwe language. "My dream is to see it flourish once again, to reestablish the intergenerational transmission of Ojibwe."

Anton Treuer's *The Language Warrior's Manifesto* is available in bookstores now. **LF**



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DON'T WATCH 'CONTAGION' DURING A PANDEMIC!

BY KEITH HARRIS

One thing to keep in mind while you're watching *Contagion*, Steven Soderbergh's tense 2011 thriller about a global pandemic that brings U.S. society to the verge of total collapse, is that **YOU SHOULD NOT BE WATCHING CONTAGION WHILE AN ACTUAL PANDEMIC IS HAPPENING! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?**

Since news of the coronavirus broke, downloads of *Contagion* (both legal and illegal) have spiked, which makes sense on some level because viral transmission is now on everyone's mind (though, hopefully, not on everyone's lungs). You can purchase the movie on a few streaming platforms, but it's only available for free on Cinemax, which you almost certainly do not subscribe to, making COVID-19 the best thing to happen to the fourth-tier movie channel

since Shannon Tweed.

So you've got to make a little bit of an effort to watch *Contagion*. And you shouldn't! Not because it's a bad movie, but because it's a good movie. If you're at all concerned with the spread of coronavirus, every cough here is a jump scare.

Seriously, this is like watching *Trainspotting* while you're trying to kick heroin. It's like watching *The Walking Dead* while there are actual zombies beating on your door. I'm not saying I imagined I had a fever afterwards and ran out to Target and bought a thermometer, but I'm not exactly not saying that. (Good news: My temperature was 98.5. Bad news: It was their last thermometer.)

"But *Contagion* takes place in Minnesota!" I hear you saying, all Minnesotans. And yes, as a "working" "journalist," the reason I dutifully re-watched the movie in the first place

was to extract all the local angles I could. Well, here they are: A man says his bus is at "Lake and Lyndale" at one point, the non-existent "Mondale Elementary School" is evacuated, and the population of Minneapolis is given as 3.3 million, a number it will never reach in Lisa Bender's wildest dreams. (Someone must have Googled our metro population, though screenwriter Scott Burns, who grew up in Golden Valley and graduated from the U of M, should've known better.) As for poor St. Paul, it doesn't get a single mention.

Anyway *Contagion* wasn't even filmed here. It was made in Chicago, so when they set up medical beds in the "Minneapolis Armory," it's not our Armory any more than Gwyneth Paltrow, who as patient zero is responsible for even more deaths here than she is as the real-life proprietor of Goop, is an actual flu-ridden Minnesotan.

And they make us look dumb! Playing the role of the Amity mayor who wants to keep the shark-infested beaches open is some dimwitted Minnesota Department of Health official who whines, "It's the biggest shopping weekend of the year!" and "Is this coming out of your budget or ours?" when Kate Winslet shows up from the Centers for Disease Control to teach us rubes some sciencin'. (Perhaps the worst part of watching *Contagion* in 2020 is that it'll make you nostalgic for a competently managed CDC. Either that or this stupid cap that Jude Law wears.)

I understand how the "gotta do something" theory of preparedness pushes us in strange directions, but *Contagion* is right now the irrationally-stocking-up-on-toilet-paper of movie choices. Seriously, just go wash your hands, stop touching your face, stay home, keep six feet apart, and watch *Singin' in the Rain* or something.

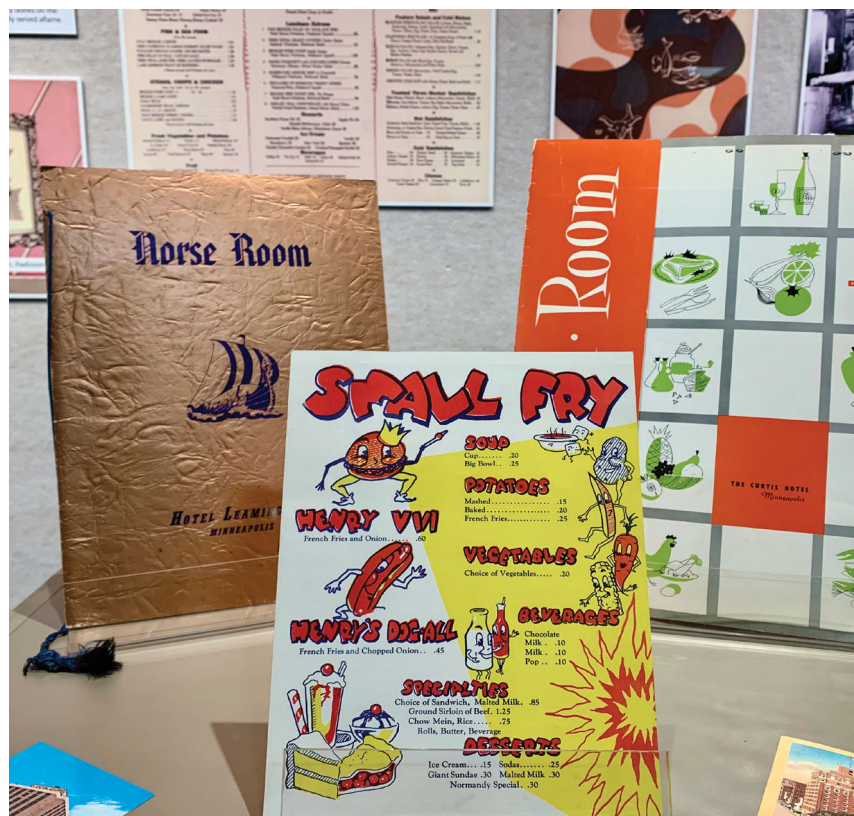
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SEE 100 YEARS OF LOCAL DINING ON DISPLAY

BY SARAH BRUMBLE

In the breezeway connecting the Government Center with City Hall, across the way from Park Cafe, the Hennepin County Library's Special Collections has filled a gallery with a colorful record of how we once stuffed our bellies.

"Your Table is Ready: Dining Out in Hennepin County through the Decades" celebrates our storied love of food and fine dining, tracing how it has changed and evolved over the past century or more.

Vivid, vintage artifacts like menus, postcards, period photos, ashtrays, and more do the bulk of the heavy lifting. This ephemera is arranged chronologically along the length of Hennepin Gallery, beginning with the late 1800s and progressing through the 1970s or so.

The exhibit is broken into sections that function almost like eras, each with accompanying info. Gaze upon the heyday of department store restaurants in wonder (that women once couldn't eat in the Oak Grill unescorted) before thoroughly considering the history of Chinese food in Minneapolis (which

extends beyond a standard fixation on the Nankin Lounge).

Special attention is paid to suburban eateries, themed restaurants, and legends like Schiek's Café and Charlie's Cafe Exceptionale, even as still thriving legends like Murray's and Jax get a nod, too. Materials on display were pulled from an ever-growing collection of more than 1,000 historic menus in their catalog, which are acquired through a mixture of donations and strategic eBay purchases.

Assembling this show was made possible in part thanks to the mass digitization of Hennepin County's Menu Collection. This detail means that even if making it to see "Your Table is Ready" in-person before it closes on May 26 proves difficult, so much of the collection from which this exhibit was drawn is available for you to peruse anytime, day or night.

In person, you can see "Your Table is Ready" at Hennepin Gallery at Hennepin County Government Center (300 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis). Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

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A FINE BOVINE

First Cow is a moooooo-ving portrait of male friendship



A24

BY TONY LIBERA

First Cow is the kind of flick critics hail as a masterpiece and mainstream moviegoers deride as long, slow, totally boring, or all the above.

If you thought *The Lighthouse* sucked? Man, you're going to hate this movie. It is indeed a bit long, most definitely slow, and at times even boring. But if you're the kind of person who appreciates a slow burn, there's something really special here.

Director Kelly Reichardt works with an extremely simple premise—two guys stealing milk—though the concepts she and writing partner Jonathan Raymond explore are far more complex than *First Cow*'s plot suggests.

The bulk of the narrative takes place in 19th-century Oregon Territory, where a lonesome cook (John Magaro) and naked Chinese immigrant (Orion Lee) unexpectedly meet. After striking up a friendship, the two become roomies and literally shack

up in the woods. Otis "Cookie" Figowitz (Magaro) obviously cooks, and the arrival of the territory's first cow makes him yearn for the one ingredient that will make his food really pop: sweet, sweet moo juice. So he and King Lu (Lee) start stealing from the cow/her wealthy owner (Toby Jones), selling deliciously milky biscuits in town and saving up to open a small hotel in San Francisco.

It's through the lens of this humble American dream that Reichardt and Raymond ruminate on camaraderie, class, and capitalism.

For the glass-half-full crowd, the relationship that forms between Cookie and King Lu will resonate above all—an indelible bromance to hold onto through the film's bleaker moments. *First Cow*'s framing narrative (set in the modern day) establishes doom right away, but Reichardt somehow finds a sense of triumph, however short-lived, in this unusual friendship.

The rest of us will focus on the paral-

els drawn to contemporary sociopolitical issues. As beautiful as it is to see our heroes' solidarity, their circumstances—and the unwavering sovereignty of wealth throughout American history—make for a depressing watch. Cookie's backstory specifically outlines the cruel hand he's been dealt: His parents died when he was young, work dried up, and he was forced to the frontier. What's a person supposed to do in that situation? What upward mobility can there be when you're struggling just to stay alive? As King Lu says, "There's no way for a poor man to start."

Unfortunately, the people who most need to hear this probably aren't going to see a measured bovine period piece. Still, it's worth noting how skillfully Reichardt relays both a sense of hopelessness and the excitement of maybe, just maybe rising above one's conditions. All this distilled from a few gallons of milk.

Toby Jones deserves his own shout-out as the antagonist, Chief Factor. While

First Cow

directed by Kelly Reichardt
release date postponed due to COVID-19 concerns; we'll update online as we have additional info

he's never truly a sleeper thanks to consistently killing it, there's a subtle scariness to Jones's interpretation that ups the stakes without veering toward villainous caricature. It's not the paltry amount of stolen milk that gets Factor's goat; it's the idea that someone like Cookie could take what's his. Of course, the of idea ownership never crosses his mind when he looks at his Native American wife or the swath of Pacific Northwest he's claimed for himself.

First Cow may be slow, but it should be clear that its performances and thematic highlights far outweigh its downsides. Just don't go looking for the life-affirming buddy pic the trailers make this out to be. This movie is a major downer. **C+**

CANCEL CULTURE

Productions shut down in the wake of COVID-19

Redwood



LAUREN B. PHOTOGRAPHY

BY JAY GABLER

It sucks,” says actor Anna Hashizume, a cast member of Theater Latté Da’s *La Bohème*.

“It’s awful. It’s awful,” says China Brickey, a star of *Redwood* at the Jungle Theater.

Both of those shows, along with virtually every other play across the Twin Cities, were abruptly postponed after Gov. Tim Walz recommended strong social distancing measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Both were set to celebrate their opening weekends.

“With any show, you’re working up to opening,” says Brickey. “For the creative team, it’s like a year or more. For the actors, we’ve been just grinding away for a month.”

“We were sort of at that point where we started looking at each other, going, ‘Wow, we’ve got a pretty great show here,’” says Tim McVean, co-founder of Wayward Theatre Company. Their site-specific *The 39 Steps* was set to open at the Minnesota Transportation Museum. “To then have to cancel at that point is disheartening.”

For many creators, the cost is not just artistic but financial. “Luckily, with Equity, we get two weeks for pay,” says Brickey, referencing the union that represents many professional actors. “Hopefully the whole town is doing that for everyone who’s non-Equity as well.”

The situation’s inherent uncertainty adds a further layer of difficulty. “We might be back in two weeks, but we also

might not be,” says Hashizume. “I want to be hopeful.”

Sad though the situation is, “I think it was the right thing to do,” says Brickey about the postponements, acknowledging the extraordinary danger to public health. “The theater community can set an example, the same way that we do with every project, every show, every crisis we come across.”

McVean is optimistic. “We’re very committed to getting this [production] back on its feet when we can, especially since we’re so far along in the process. When we go to put this back up, we won’t need more than three or four rehearsals.”

Brickey says the postponement of *Redwood* hit particularly hard, given the importance of the issues addressed in Brit-tany K. Allen’s play. “It’s about interracial relationships and slavery. It’s very, very near to my own heart... we put our whole selves into these things, and I would be lying if I said I didn’t have a very strong emotional release.”

Hashizume will continue to develop her craft during the hiatus. “I’m probably going to be working a lot on music, because that’s what gives me a lot of joy and that’s what I can do here at home by myself: sit at the piano and sing.”

“When we come back to it,” Brickey says, “especially after all this social distancing, the way that we’re longing for community... this being a story about love and history and ancestors, we will come back even more open, and we’ll be so glad to see each other.”

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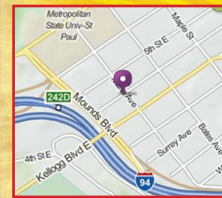


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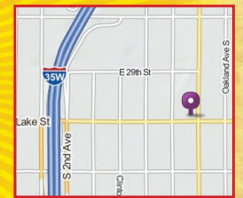
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ORCHESTRAL MANEUVERS

Matt Wilson's creative floodgates open wide on *When I Was a Writer*

BY ANNIE ZALESKI

A crowdfunding campaign to support the Twilight Hours' 2016 album *Black Beauty* offered a unique reward: a chance to co-write a song with vocalist Matt Wilson.

An Omaha-based artist and filmmaker named Tim Guthrie chose this perk and traveled to Minneapolis to claim his prize, but he wasn't looking for a co-writing credit. Guthrie wanted to tell his story: how his wife passed away, and "how it destroyed him, and how he tried to rebuild his life and

the way it was a hurricane in his world—it was flattened—and then he had to return," as Wilson puts it, speaking by phone from his basement studio in Minneapolis. And he wanted Wilson to write a song about it.

That in-person meeting, coupled with an art project Guthrie had launched to honor his wife, inspired Wilson to write "I Can't Return." The song's lyrics focus on coming to terms with new realities, and finding equilibrium: "Who was I?/Shadow man, troubled man, travel plans/A mouthy child, alive at night/Too much darkness,

too much light." About the only thing the protagonist knows is they "can't return"—a powerful (if bittersweet) statement that's tinged with both optimism and wistfulness.

"I Can't Return" proved a creative catalyst that "led to an avalanche of music that started coming out of me," Wilson says. "And I recognized pretty quickly that this is something unusual for me, something special and really positive, and so I began to do everything I could to prepare myself to receive this music, to make sure I captured it and to be alive to songwriting as much as I could during this period."

The resulting album, *When I Was a Writer*, brims with deeply felt meditations on what it means to be alive and searching for meaning in a flawed, imperfect world. Credited to Matt Wilson & His Orchestra, the full-length features Wilson on acoustic guitar and piano, playing alongside several collaborators: a long-time musical foil, bassist Jacques Wait, as well as two additional talents, harpist Phala Tracy (who's also in the Dust of Suns) and banjo player Quillan Roe. Thanks to this instrumental configuration, the music shapeshifts between genres—baroque pop, lush folk, rich acoustic rock—with intricate grace and precise arrangements. The nuances of the topsy-turvy melody of "Real Life" and "Petty Thief" come into sharp relief thanks to cascading background harmonies, while Roe's galloping banjo and Tracy's fanciful playing offer texture to "Space Cruising."

Wilson's burst of creativity was also driven by a deeply personal impetus: a relative who is dealing with dementia. "For me, all my joy is making music and trying to put together interesting combinations of words," he says. "The idea of losing my marbles... it makes me feel desperate. And being immersed in that as I have been lately, I felt, like, 'Oh my God.' Who knows, maybe the doors are shutting. I have to run and try to get through the doors and express to people how I feel music should sound—do what I can with my gift to try to create music that's moving and that expresses my idea of how music can be."

To that end, Wilson encouraged his muse in a variety of ways. He took cues from his brother, Dan Wilson, and did a lot of writing in general "to keep the sediment in my mind stirred up and floating around, visible." At the suggestion of his wife, Wilson also booked multiple weekend songwriting trips to "budget hotels in the suburbs," where he'd bring his electric piano and acoustic guitar and spend uninterrupted time working on music. "That was very



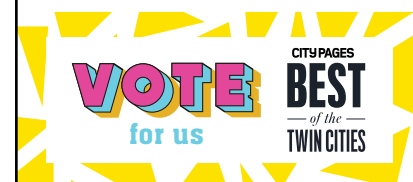
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Wilson is deriving great joy from playing with his Orchestra, however, as it's facilitating deep connections with audiences as well as the musicians. "I strive to write songs that are moving, and I try to have shows that transport you. I know I don't always by any means achieve it, but that's been my goal is to create these moments of realness where something is really happening and you are stirred and touched." **CP**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

We interrupt your regularly scheduled horoscopes to offer insights about the virus-driven turning point that the whole world is now experiencing.

As you've probably guessed, all of us are being invited to re-evaluate everything we think we know about what it means to be human. I refer to this unprecedented juncture as The Tumultuous Upgrade or The Disruptive Cure. It's a phase fraught with danger and potential opportunities; crisis and possible breakthroughs.

And while the coronavirus is the primary driving force, it won't be the only factor. We must be ready for more Rough, Tough Healings disguised as Bumpy Challenges in the coming months.

Here's the astrological lowdown: Throughout 2020, there is a rare confluence of three planets in Capricorn: Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter. They are synergizing and compounding each other's impacts—interweaving in ways that confound us and rattle us. In the best-case scenario, they will also energize us to initiate brave transformations in our own personal lives as well as in our communities and nations.

Below is a profile of each planet's meaning.

When we are in intense and intimate relationship with Pluto—as we are now—we're invited to dive down deeper: to see life from the soul's perspective rather than from the ego's; to seek wealth and meaning not as they're defined by the material world but as they're understood by the part of us that's eternal. Descending into the mysterious Plutonian depths can be disruptive to our conscious beliefs and intentions, but may ultimately be profoundly regenerative.

When we are in intense and intimate relationship with Saturn, we're invited to get more serious and focused; to register the fact that we don't have unlimited time and energy, but must firmly decide what's important and what's not. We're asked to be ruthlessly honest about the roles that are most likely to bring out the best in us.

When we are in intense and intimate relationship with Jupiter, we're invited to risk growth and expansion; to take proactive responsibility for seeking the rich experiences that our souls long for; to aggressively enhance our lust for life.

I wish I had sufficient room to address how you might take advantage of The Tumultuous Upgrade to transform your philosophy of life and your relationship to humanity's greater good. But I must confine myself to suggesting more personal shifts in response to this once-in-a-lifetime blend of planetary energies.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. Your power spot may be challenged or compromised. 2. Your master plan might unravel. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll be motivated to find an even more suitable power spot. 2. A revised master plan will coalesce.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. Your vision of the big picture of your life may dissipate. 2. Old reliable approaches to learning crucial lessons and expanding your mind could lose their effectiveness. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll be inspired to develop an updated vision of the big picture of your life. 2. Creative new strategies for learning and expanding your mind will invigorate your personal growth.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. There may be breakdowns in communication with people you care about. 2. Contracts and agreements could fray. 3. Sexual challenges might complicate love. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll be inspired to reinvent the ways you communicate and connect. 2. Your willingness to revise agreements and contracts could make them work better for all concerned. 3. Sexual healing will be available.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. Friends and associates could change in ways that are uncomfortable for you. 2. Images and expectations that people have of you may not match your own images and expectations. *Potential opportunities:* 1. If you're intelligent and compassionate as you deal with the transformations in your friends and associates, your relationships could be rejuvenated. 2. You might become braver and more forceful in expressing who you are and what you want.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. Your job may not suit you as well as you wish. 2. A health issue could demand more of your attention than you'd like. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll take innovative action to make your job work better for you. 2. In your efforts to solve a specific health issue, you'll upgrade your entire approach to staying healthy long-term.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. Love may feel confusing or unpredictable. 2. You may come up against a block to your creativity. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll be energized to generate new understandings about how to ensure that love works well for you. 2. Your frustration with a creative block will motivate you to uncover previously hidden keys to accessing creative inspiration.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. You may experience disturbances in your relationships with home and family. 2. You may falter in your ability to maintain a strong foundation. *Potential opportunities:* 1. Domestic disorder could inspire you to reinvent your approach to home and family, changing your life for the better. 2. Responding to a downturn in your stability and security, you'll build a much stronger foundation.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. There may be carelessness or a lack of skill in the ways you and your associates communicate and cultivate connectivity. 2. You may have problems blending elements that really need to be blended. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll resolve to communicate and cultivate connectivity with a renewed panache and vigor. 2. You'll dream up fresh approaches to blending elements that need to be blended.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. Money may be problematic. 2. Your personal integrity might undergo a challenge. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll find inventive solutions for boosting your wealth. 2. You'll take steps to ensure your ethical code is impeccable.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): *Possible crises in the coming months:* You may have an identity crisis. Who are you, anyway? What do you really want? What are your true intentions? *Potential opportunities:* You'll purge self-doubts and fuzzy self-images. You'll rise up with a fierce determination to define yourself with clarity and intensity and creativity.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. You'll be at risk for botched endings. 2. You may be tempted to avoid solving long-term problems whose time is up. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll make sure all endings are as graceful and complete as possible. 2. You'll dive in and finally resolve long-term problems whose time is up.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): *Possible crises in the coming months:* 1. Due to worries about your self-worth, you may not accept the help and support that are available. 2. Due to worries about your self-worth, you might fail to bravely take advantage of chances to reach a new level of success. *Potential opportunities:* 1. You'll take dramatic action to enhance your sense of self-worth, empowering you to welcome the help and support you're offered and take advantage of chances to reach a new level of success.

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SPACE

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Picture puzzle
- 6 “Get training fast” seminars
- 15 Engages in bloviations
- 17 Slandering
- 18 Samsung smartphone line
- 19 “Behold the Lord High Executioner” comic opera
- 20 Senate leader?
- 21 Crunk
- 23 Winter hrs. in Seattle
- 24 One who goes along to get along
- 29 Bess's partner
- 33 Exquisite style
- 34 Spaces
- 36 ____ polloi
- 37 Flip of a 7”
- 39 Dole (out)
- 40 Connected by a thread
- 41 Public health intervention to reduce transmission of disease, and what’s happening literally in this puzzle
- 44 “Squawk on the Street” channel
- 45 M.D. specialty
- 46 Lavs
- 47 Intention
- 48 Beliefs
- 49 Hat-tipping word
- 50 Haiku poet Matsuo ____
- 52 Florida city or its lake or county seat
- 57 Ovid poem
- 59 “A right delayed is a

- right denied” speaker, initially
- 60 Without much pressure
- 61 Swear words?
- 66 Snobby
- 69 “Heads up”
- 70 More to the point
- 71 Went down
- 72 “I ____ listening”

Down

- 1 Word list compiler Peter
- 2 Take off the page
- 3 Floating wood
- 4 Acting instructor Hagen
- 5 What a dirty mind thinks about
- 6 Off one's rocker
- 7 ____ Kosh B’Gosh
- 8 Poet’s “ajar”
- 9 Do some freelance work
- 10 Potato chips in Parliament
- 11 Implore
- 12 Mil. status
- 13 Escape vehicle in sci-fi
- 14 ____ Seal (weatherproofing brand)
- 16 What fingers signal in charades
- 22 Actor McDiarmid
- 25 Doctor in a theater?
- 26 Strong request
- 27 Discharge
- 28 Hair metal band with a verminesque name
- 30 Köln's river
- 31 Graduate's getups
- 32 ____ Yang Twins
- 35 Double-breasted coat
- 37 Indian National Congress president

- Gandhi
- 38 War game weapons
- 39 Belarus’s capital
- 40 Average chump
- 41 Sign of healing
- 42 Proof-of-concept product
- 43 Comic with the autobiography “Born a Crime”
- 48 First aid kit fluid
- 49 Qantas hub letters
- 51 See 65-Down
- 53 Alter
- 54 Make sacrosanct
- 55 Polished off
- 56 Give off effort
- 58 It is, in Chile
- 61 Exaggerate on the expense report, e.g.
- 62 Lyft line: Abbr.
- 63 Like non-Rx drugs
- 64 Chunks in the 30-Down
- 65 He regularly serves 51-Down
- 67 Hardly any
- 68 Brother's address

Last Week's Answer

A	C	H		R	A	T	E		Z	E	L	D	A
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SAVAGE LOVE

Quickies

What's the word for "talk dirty to me?"



Dan Savage

DEAR READERS: I live in Seattle, the U.S. epicenter of the novel coronavirus epidemic, with my family. A lot of my readers wrote this week to wish us well. We are fine—scared, but fine—washing our hands compulsively and staying close to home. I'm going to keep churning out the column and recording my podcast, while being careful to maintain a safe social distance from the tech-savvy, at-risk youth. I'm hoping the column and podcast are welcome distractions. Please take care of yourselves, take care of the people around you, and wash your damn hands.

I'm wondering if you know of a word that describes the fetish of getting off from talking dirty. I've searched a lot, and I can't find a label for this kink or fetish. While googling around, I did learn some new terms, like "katoptrophilia" (being aroused by having sex in front of mirrors) and "pubephilia" (being aroused by pubic hair), but I can't seem to find one that describes my kink.

DIRTY TALKER

I'm old enough to remember when people who needed to feel a strong emotional connection before they wanted to fuck someone got by without a word or a pride flag of their very own. They just said, "I'm someone who needs to feel a strong emotional connection before wanting to fuck someone." But now they can say, "I'm a demisexual," a five-syllable, vaguely scientific-sounding term that first popped up in an online forum in 2006. Unfortunately, when someone says, "I'm a demisexual," the usual response is, "What's that?" Anyway, DT, you're someone who enjoys dirty talk. There isn't a special term (or pride flag) for you that I could find—I did a little half-hearted googling myself—and I don't think you need one. You can get by with "I'm someone who enjoys dirty talk."

My wife and I have been married for a little over two years. We both have demanding jobs, but she admits to being a workaholic and spends almost every night on the couch answering emails and binge-watching Bravo. I've resorted to getting high most nights to cover up for the fact that I'm very unhappy. Despite being overworked, she's started a side hustle selling skin-care products to her friends, most of whom she rarely sees in person. Bottom line: I didn't sign up for

this. I'm beyond bored and want to travel and explore. But she refuses to give up the side hustle and dial back her work or her drinking. We both earn comfortable salaries and we don't need the extra income. Would I be justified in leaving because of her newfound hobby?

BASICALLY OVER REDUNDANT ENRICHMENT

Side hustle or no, BORE, you aren't happy, and that's reason enough to leave. And while you won't (or shouldn't) be doing much traveling anytime soon, you can initiate divorce proceedings while your wife sits on the couch. I would typically encourage someone in your shoes to risk telling the truth before walking out—you're unhappy, you're bored, you don't want to live like this anymore—but it sounds like your mind is made up. So use your time at home over the next couple of weeks to make your escape plan.

I'm a young white woman, and my last boyfriend, a black man, left me two weeks ago. Ever since, I have been masturbating only while thinking about black guys. My question is: Do I have a "thing" for black guys now? I've accepted that our relationship is over, but it was really intense. I feel disgusting after I masturbate, because it feels gross and not respectful toward my ex somehow. What do you think?

DESPERATELY HORNY FOR BLACK MEN

Masturbate about whatever the fuck turns you on, DHFBM, and if you're worried someone would find your masturbatory fantasies disrespectful... don't tell that person about your masturbatory fantasies. I suppose it's possible you have a "thing" for black guys now. (What's that thing they say? Actually, let's not say it.) Unless you are treating black guys as objects and not people, or you fetishize blackness in a way that makes black sex partners feel degraded (in unsexy, nonconsensual ways) or used (in ways they don't wish to be used), don't waste your time worrying about your fantasies. Worry about your actions.

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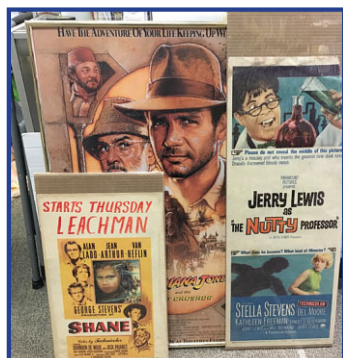
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